



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

From the President

Picnics bring friends and families together for fun, play, and relaxation. DX Club picnics include a bonus – radios set up near a hot tub or a folding table working the world using wires shot & thrown into the trees. We were blessed with excellent weather on Sunday, September 17 at the home of Kelley W4VPZ and Derrek Johns for an afternoon of great food (Derrek smoked an amazing ham), DX, and an impromptu antenna party that put Kelley's new OCF dipole into the treetops. And it worked! Kelley reports working 5T50K (Mauritania) on 40m just 2 days later.



Antenna Party—Not-really-the-center insulator on Kelley's OCF dipole.

Fall, and change is in the air. October corresponds with our club's Annual Meeting and officer election. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work and somewhere in this issue you'll see their results. Be sure to attend Tuesday's meeting to hear the candidate platforms, debates, and tweets – then we'll vote.

I'll also share that Bill KD8IGK will be in town and has tentative plans to join us.

My rotor is still broken but I found a way to move the antenna. The old adage is true; if all you have is a hammer, all your problems are nails. Until I find my wiring diagram, further diagnostics aren't possible. So a crossbow shot put line over the director and while Julie held the brake switch on the controller, I pulled the rope and moved the antenna to a more useful 30 degrees.

There is some notable DX on the bands: A5A Bhutan and VK9XI Christmas Island are being chased. Some of my evening time has been spent tuned to the internet for ham related news and information. Two recent additions are truly worthy of your time: <http://www.rof.org/webinar-archive/a-look-at-propagation-for-the-2017-2018-contest-season/>

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Special points of interest:

- From the President
- October Program
- September Meeting Minutes
- DX Contests
- For Sale
- Nominating Committee Report

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

October Program—Meteor Scatter

By Dr. Rob Suggs, KB5EZ

Meteor scatter communication is easier than ever thanks to the WSJT digital modes. Learn the basics of meteor physics, what meteors are and where they come from, how the ionization trail scatters RF energy, and how you can best exploit the brief bursts of propagation to add some VHF grid squares to your log. Meteor data collected by NASA and tools you can use in planning and executing QSOs will be described. See you at the Golden Corral at 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Rob's program.



September, 2017 Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ—NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance

Members attending 18 Guests 0

Review of Sign-in Sheet & DX worked

Steve AG4W – Solar Flare X8.2
Tom N4KG – What's DX?
Rob KB5EZ – 4Z5 30m FT8 after X8 flare
Mark N4BCD – 565 Q's @ TnQP
Bob KC4TNC – UAE A61HA, Market Reef OJOR, Macedonia Z37M
Chris KF4MMF – You can't work DX if you don't turn on the radio.
Tim AB4B – 80m – SSB WAE, DL, EA, CT during X Class Flare
Stephen KK4TJP – HB0-20, 30, 40m; 3D2TS-40m; 9K2GS-17m – caused an FT8 pileup; 5W1SA—all were FT8

Announcements

The Club's annual picnic was announced. It will be held at Kelley W4VPZ and Derek Johns' home on Monte Sano. Arrive beginning around 10:00 a.m., and bring a folding chair, a covered dish to share, and any ham gear to set up with a wire for a tree. Derek will smoke some ham to share. Kelley will listen on the W4QB repeater for anyone needing directions.

The August Hamfest was discussed. The attendance was good, but may have been a little lower than usual due to the eclipse on the Monday after the weekend. The NA DX Club QSL card-checking table staffed by Steve AG4W, Mike K4ADK, and others was busy. The flea market was sold out ahead of time, but had a few last minute vacancies.

Eclipse stories from the Monday after Hamfest weekend were shared. Several members drove to the area of totality, and some stayed in Huntsville.

On Sunday, September 10, a strong (R3) radio blackout occurred at 1606 UTC. Another coronal hole high-speed stream reaching moderate G2 level storm is predicted to hit earth tomorrow (Wednesday, September 13). Several different discussions followed about experiences during this blackout (and others) and during the eclipse. Steve AG4W talked about his DX during Solar Flare X8.2. Rob KB5EZ mentioned his contact with 4Z5 (30m FT8) after the X8 Flare.

The DX Club's annual banquet went very well, and Mark N4BCD thanked all those who helped with the details to keep it running smoothly.

John N5DF requested help with lining up meeting programs for the rest of the year as he will be out of town a good deal of the time. Anyone with programs for October and November should see Mark N4BCD about getting on the schedule. (Our December meeting will be the Christmas party.)

Kelley W4VPZ Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,469.71
Debits (Banquet Room & Meals	
	-\$ 2,658.74
Credits (Deposits)	\$ 611.60
Ending Balance	\$ 4,422.57

The Hamfest DX Club Banquet final financial report (published in the last LongPath) was reviewed with the net profit/loss of \$97.63 in the positive noted.

Membership Applications

None.

Old Business

None.

New Business

In December we'll have our annual Christmas party where we will install a new president.

At the November meeting we'll elect that new president.

Preceding that, in October our nominating committee will report on their nominee.

MD WA4DXP and Tim AB4B were appointed as the nominating committee.

The topic of funding for the Bouvet DXpedition was revisited. It was suggested that we use our small banquet proceeds as a donation, and Kelley W4VPZ suggested that we round it to an even \$100. A PayPal donation button that is dedicated to the Bouvet DXpedition donations from our club is still on the web site, and members are encouraged to add to the donation amount. We will send a lump-sum donation before the end of the year.

Program:

Bonus Program: Rob Suggs KB5EZ on WSPR Preliminary Results during the 2017 Eclipse

M.D. WA4DXP – Bicycle Mobile DX'ing.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	John Stensby, N5DF
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

DX Contests for October

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

Oceania DX Phone Contest (PH), 160-10 meters

Oct 7, 0800Z to Oct 8, 0800Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.oceaniadxcontest.com

Russian WW Digital Contest, (DIG), 160-10 meters

Oct. 7, 1200Z to Oct. 8, 1159Z

Exchange: RST(Q) plus serial # or Oblast

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.trcdx.org/trcdx

WAB (Worked All Britain) HF Phone contest, (PH), 20-10 meters

Oct. 7, 1900Z to Oct. 8, 1900Z

Exchange: RS plus serial # plus Country or WAB square

See page 94, Oct QST and
www.wab.intermip.net

RSGB DX Contest, (CW, PH), 80-10 meters

Oct. 8, 0500Z to Oct. 8, 2300Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial #

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.uba.be/en

UBA ON Contest, CW, (CW), 80 Meters

Oct. 8, 0530Z to 0800Z

Exchange: RST, serial No., ON section (if any)

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.uba.be/en

Makrothen Contest, (Digital), 80-10 meters

Oct. 14, 0000Z to Oct. 15, 1600Z
(See website for time details)

Exchange: 4 character grid square

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.pl259.org/makrothen/

[makrothen-rules](#)

Oceania DX Phone Contest (CW), 160-10 meters

Oct 14, 0800Z to Oct 15, 0800Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.oceaniadxcontest.com

Scandinavian Activity Contest, (SSB) 80-10 meters

Oct. 14, 1200Z to Oct. 15, 1200Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 94, Oct. QST and <http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules>

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, (CW), 15 & 20 meters

Oct. 15, 0000Z-0200Z,

Exchange: RST plus serial number

See page 94, Oct QST and
www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

JARTS WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Oct. 21, 0000Z to Oct. 22, 2400Z

Exchange: RS(T) & age; YL: 00

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.jarts.jp/rules2017.html

Worked All Germany Contest, (SSB & CW), 20-10 meters

Oct 21, 1500Z to Oct 22, 1459Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial number or DOK code

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.darc.de/referate/okw-funk-sport

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW),



160 meters

Oct. 21, 1500Z to Oct. 22, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-character grid square

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.kkn.net/stew

CQ WW SSB, (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 28, 0000Z to Oct 29, 2359Z

Exchange: RS & CQ zone

See page 94, Oct. QST and
www.cqwww.com/rules.htm

WAE DX Contest (DIG), 80-10 meters

Nov. 11, 0000Z to Nov. 12, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number
(see rules for QTC)

See www.waedc.de

OTHERS:

Ukrainian DX Contest,

1200Z, Nov 4 to 1200Z, Nov 5

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. Also, check the cluster: "sh/contest". Have fun!

Chuck, N4NM

From the President

(cont'd from p. 1)

And at a Texas event dubbed the 6m BBQ held in Austin, a notable list of contributors including Tim Duffy K3LR, Rob Sherwood NCOB, Jon Jones NOJK, David Shoaf KG6IRW, and Steve Hicks N5AC. Their focus is on a higher part of the spectrum than these folks normally dwell. While the audio is less than desired, the topics are certainly interesting.

<http://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/6-meter-bbq-by-dxe-flexradio-systems.583215/>



Antenna Party—How many hams does it take to...you fill in the rest.

In December we'll install our newly elected officers at our annual Christmas party. Note the date & venue change: Monday, December 11, 2017 at Logan's Roadhouse, 4249 Balmoral Dr, Huntsville, 35801. It's very easy to find near the intersection of South Parkway & Airport Rd.

73,

Mark N4BCD

North Alabama DX Club - President

For Sale

Barry W4WB has a number of items for sale. Contact Barry for details and to haggle over prices: [256.683.4017](tel:256.683.4017), email barryw4wb@gmail.com.

- A variety of LDG autotuners from QRO to QRP. Like new condition.
- Yaesu FT-1000MP loaded.
- Yaesu SP-8 speaker.
- Yaesu QUADRA amplifier. Used.
- Yaesu QUADRA amplifier. New in the box.
- FT-100D. Like new condition.
- A variety of motorized antennas for mobile or base. Some used and others like new.
- MFJ-1786 Supper Hi-Q Magnetic Loop Antenna, 36"-dia, 10-30 MHz.

Tnx es 73,

Barry W4WB

Nominating Committee Report

For the past few weeks the duly appointed Nominating Committee composed of M.D. Smith, WA4DXP and Tim Wininger, AB4B have been canvassing the NADXC membership in order to discover members willing to serve as officers for 2018. The committee feels it was successful in filling the slate with competent nominees as follows:

President

Steve Werner, AG4W

Vice President

Rob Suggs, KB5EZ

Secretary Treasurer

Kelly Johns, W4VPZ

Directors

Tom Duncan, KG4CUI

Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI

We hope all will be in attendance for the November (voting on the slate and other contenders which may appear between now and then) and December (installation of new officers) meetings.

Respectfully yours,

M.D. Smith, WA4DXP

Tim Wininger, AB4B

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUI

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

